

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 594

By McNally

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate James Edward “Ed” Westcott on the celebration of his ninetieth birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, James Edward “Ed” Westcott celebrated his ninetieth birthday on January 20, 2012, a milestone that was commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, Ed Westcott was born on January 20, 1922, in Chattanooga to Jamie and Lucille Westcott, and moved to Nashville as a child with his family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Westcott served with valor and distinction in the United States Armed Forces and, in December 1942, the Army Corps transferred him to the Clinton Engineer Works at the then-secret Oak Ridge site; and

WHEREAS, Ed Westcott became the twenty-ninth employee hired for the Manhattan Project in Oak Ridge, where he served with acumen and alacrity as an official government photographer from 1942 to 1966; and

WHEREAS, much of Mr. Westcott's photographic work was classified when it was first created, and some of it remained classified for many years; and

WHEREAS, today, much of his work is now largely unrestricted; about 5,000 negatives are archived by the National Archives and Records Administration, and his photographs have been widely reproduced, often without naming him as the photographer, in publications and exhibits about the Manhattan Project; and

WHEREAS, Ed Westcott's work has been featured in a number of exhibitions, including at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, the University of Tennessee at Knoxville's Ewing

Gallery of Art and Architecture, the American Museum of Science and Energy, and the National Archives in Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Westcott's laudable thirty-five year career, his assignments included creating photographic documentation of numerous notable people, such as Manhattan Project scientists J. Robert Oppenheimer, Arthur Compton, Glenn Seaborg, Vannevar Bush, Ernest O. Lawrence, and James Bryant Conant; and

WHEREAS, he also photographed U.S. Army generals Leslie Groves and Maxwell Taylor; Army Colonel Kenneth Nichols; Admiral Hyman Rickover; Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson; U.S. senators Estes Kefauver and Kenneth McKellar of Tennessee and Robert Taft of Ohio; Tennessee Valley Authority Director and AEC Chairman David Lilienthal, and several U.S. presidents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Westcott has lived in East Tennessee for most of his life; he remained in Oak Ridge from the beginning of his career until 1966, at which time he was transferred to Washington, D.C., and, upon his retirement, he returned home to Oak Ridge, where he currently resides; and

WHEREAS, as Ed Westcott celebrates a rich ninety years of living life to its fullest, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we join with the family and friends of James Edward "Ed" Westcott in celebrating his ninetieth birthday and extend to him our best wishes for many happy returns.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.